



# MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

**Meeting Date:** December 10, 2020

**Agenda Item:** Annual Rule Approved Commercial Bait Seining Waters

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 Minutes

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**Background:**

A bait fish seining license is required for: 1) persons 15 years of age and older to seine for and transport bait fish for commercial purposes in Montana; and 2) for any person who seines for and has in their possession more than 24 dozen non-game bait fish. The commission may designate waters that are allowed for these purposes, and FWP describes these waters annually in the Commercial Bait Seining Application Form. Approved seining waters are regularly monitored for AIS and pathogens and maintain adequate population abundance to accommodate bait collection.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:**

If approved by the commission, the department will collect public comment on proposed changes to commercial bait seining waters. The final list will be updated on the Commercial Bait Seining Application Form.

**Alternatives and Analysis:**

Proposed changes include addition of waters to improve bait collection opportunity, removal of some waters due to population abundance concerns, and changes for clarity. In the Western Fishing District, three waters are proposed for removal and two waterbodies added. The only proposed change in the Central Fishing District is to add one waterbody. For the Eastern Fishing District, there are two proposed changes for clarity, addition of one waterbody, and removal of one waterbody. The commission could endorse these changes as proposed, propose addition or removal of waterbodies on the list, or not approve the list of approved waters for commercial bait seining.

**Agency Recommendation and Rationale:**

Evaluation by biologists and program managers have determined that the waterbodies on the list can support commercial bait seining. The department recommends approving the proposed list to include on the Commercial Bait Seining Application Form.

**Proposed Motion:**

I move that the commission approve the proposed Approved Commercial Bait Seining Waters list and collect public comment.